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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 28 Nov 1951

SUBJECT Duties and Responsibilities of
Political Officers

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE ACQUIRED
DATE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

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1. In February 1951 a directive of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Moscow reintroduced the position of Military Kommissar on the staff of Armies. This Military Kommissar is a member of the Military Council (Chlen Voyennovo Sovieta), and, as a general officer, is nominally the second in command of an Army: actually he is placed in his position to report directly to the Central Committee of the Communist Party upon the Army CG, his abilities and activities; and the morale, discipline, political indoctrination, etc, of the Army personnel. The Military Kommissar has unlimited power and is feared by his Army CG. The Military Kommissar is not to be considered as the political officer at Army level, since he is on direct assignment from the Communist Party and is responsible only to the Central Committee in Moscow.
2. Each unit political officer selects the political officer of his subordinate unit; i e, the Army Military Kommissar selects the Army political officer; the Army political officer selects the Division political officer; the Division political officer selects the Regimental political officer; the Regimental political officer selects the Battalion political officer; and he in turn selects the battery or company political officers.

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3. Political officers are selected on the basis of directives from the Army Office for Political Affairs, must have a perfect political background, and must have been CP members 8-10 years. All political officers get promotions from the Office of Political Affairs at Army or (in the case of higher ranks) from the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Moscow. Most political officers get a promotion every two years.
4. Political officers, while nominally subordinated to the unit CO, are actually his chief. They can tell the unit CO to stop drinking, to pay more attention to troop training, etc. The political officer of a unit is as much responsible for the combat readiness of the unit as is the unit CO.
5. The regimental political officer is considered as the subordinate of the regimental commander, but is directly subordinated to the political section of the division, from which he receives orders. The regimental political officer, as a representative of the party, is as much responsible for the combat training, morale, and political indoctrination of all regimental personnel as is the regimental commander. A regimental political officer organizes and supervises political instruction in the regiment and its various units; devises programs for the political group leaders twice per week; formulates a plan for monthly mass political meetings in the regiment and checks the plans for political meetings led by the political officers of batteries and companies; personally directs the party organizers and Komsomol organizers of the regiment; periodically checks upon the execution of plans for mass indoctrination meetings; personally reads lectures and conducts discussions in the regiment on international and national political themes at least once each month; composes a report on the morale and political condition of the regiment twice each month; approves the plans for mass political meetings drawn up by the political officers of batteries and companies; approves the instruction plans of the party organizers and Komsomol organizers; issues instruction for political training to be given on rest days; supervises the conduct of various political pageants and holidays; issues instructions for political indoctrination; supervises tactical training in conjunction with the regimental commander; and supervises the club (movies, athletics, billiards, recreation, officers' dances, etc), the library, radio programs, and sporting events.
6. Battery and company political officers are subordinated to the unit commander and to the political section of the next higher unit. They conduct lectures for the NCO's and privates of their unit; organize mass political debates and meetings; supervise the sporting programs of the unit; and report to the political officer of the next higher unit on the morale and political indoctrination of the unit.

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7. Lectures at battery and company level for a year are organized as follows:

For 1st year soldiers (pvt's)

History and Wealth of the USSR	20 hours
Strength and Glory of the Soviet Army	16 hours
Security Regulations	16 hours
Discipline	16 hours
Political work, points of debate and the explanation of Stalinism-Leninism-Marxism	100 hours
Five Year Plan Fulfillment	16 hours
Serfdom under the Czars until 1917	24 hours

Total (4 hours for 52 weeks)	208 hours
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For 2d, 3d, and 4th year soldiers

Biography of Lenin and Stalin (68 hrs ea.)	136 hours
Five Year Plan Fulfillment	16 hours
Anglo-US Imperialism	24 hours
Communist Party Aims	32 hours

Total	208 hours
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8. NCO's are given separate lectures on the Communist Party, Stalinism, Leninism, etc, for 208 hours annually by battery or company political officers. Officers receive political lectures from the regimental political officer or battalion political officer for 208 hours annually on the Communist Party, Stalinism, Leninism, etc.
9. The Military Kommissar of the 1st Guards Mechanized Army was a brigadier general (Genmajor, name forgotten), a member of the Military Council. The Chief of the 1st Gds Mecz Army Political Section was Col Chernykh. The office, which was located on the 2nd floor of the 1st Gds Army HQ, contained about 20 officers:

Chief	- Col Chernykh
Deputy Chief	- Col
Komsomol officer	- Col
Representative of Central Committee of Communist Party	- Lt Col (directly subordinated to the Military Kommissar; indirectly subordinated to unit CO.)
Political Instructors (four or five)	- Lt Cols and Majs
Club Officer	- Capt
Library Officer	- Capt

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